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Parks and Recreation Minutes 06/15/2001

Arlington Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, June 15, 2001 at 7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:45 PM in the Whittemore Robbins House. Commission members in attendance included Bernice Jones, Don Vitters, Joe Carabello and Mark McCabe. Also present were Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Mark Shea of the Department of Public Works.

Public present included: Terence Rogers, Harold Stiritz, Gail Rogers and Andrew Leonard.

Discussion of "Why Arlington Should Have a Skate Park"

Mr. Connelly introduced Ottoson Middle School students Terence Rogers and Harold Stiritz. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Stiritz made a proposal to have a skateboard park in Arlington. Mr. Stiritz reviewed the need and some possible locations. Mr. Rogers reviewed other skateboard parks in the area: Medford, Winchester, Burlington, Salisbury and Everett.

The Commission discussed the proposal and size of such a facility. Mr. Carabello discussed the type and number of pieces of equipment needed. Mr. Vitters reviewed the capital planning process and the importance of understanding the need.

Mr. Connelly suggested that Mr. Rogers and Mr. Stiritz begin developing a petition to determine the interest level. Mr. Connelly asked that this information be reported to the Commission during the fall.

Crosby Playground Design Review

Mr. Leonard reviewed the draft design of the Crosby School playground site. Mr. Leonard reviewed the existing conditions of the play equipment; tennis courts, basketball courts and grass play area. Mr. Leonard shared his recommendations with the Commission. His recommendations included moving the basketball court parallel to the tennis courts to make room for a youth size soccer field. The Commission discussed the benefits of this option.

The Commission and Mr. Leonard discussed the existing conditions of the tennis courts and renovation options.

Mr. Leonard reviewed the pricing estimates. Mr. Leonard estimated the total project cost to be \$312,950.

Open Play Area - \$42,500	Basketball Courts - \$25,000
Playground - \$53,000	Contingency - \$27,950
Tennis Courts - \$127,000	General Site - \$32,000
Design - \$5,500	

The Commission discussed these estimates. Mr. Leonard asked for a priority of responsibilities. The Commission suggested that we take the tennis courts out of the equation and ask for future CDBG money to cover the project.

The Commission asked Mr. Vitters to contact Mr. McClennan regarding possible financial solutions.

Cutter Playground

Mr. Shea reviewed the Cutter Playground renovation project. Mr. Dave Ardito of School Street had a few requests. Mr.

Ardito requests that the picnic table be moved from its intended location. The Commission agreed an alternate site could be used. Mr. Ardito also requested that the Park Close by 9 PM and hours of operation signs be re-installed. Mr. Ardito and the Commission also discussed touching the existing tree line and future plans to light the park. The Commission stated that there were currently no plans to light the facility.

Mr. Shea stated that the project was scheduled for Saturday, June 23 and should go according to plan.

Spy Pond Shore

John Gearin and Jeff Theilman of the Friends of Spy Pond discussed the study and funding for the study with the Commission. The Commission discussed whether or not to go out to bid or continue with Pat Loheeds plan. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Vitters discussed their concern with the procurement laws requiring bids for projects over \$25,000. After discussion the Commission decided that it would be best to bid the project.

Skating Rink Donation and Facility Expansion Committee

Mr. Connelly stated that Senator Haven was presenting a check for \$300,000 from the state for facility renovations. Mr. Connelly explained that this money would be used to install a heating system in the facility. This money will also be used for a facility expansion study and for other general facility improvements.

Mr. Connelly also stated that the current Rink Improvement Committee would be expanded to a Facility Expansion Committee. The Commission discussed the donation and the role of the Facility Expansion Committee.

Discussion of Artificial Turf

Mr. Connelly discussed the benefits of artificial turf for Pierce Field. Mr. Connelly and the Commission reviewed a sample of the product. The Commission completely supports the installation of turf. Mr. Vitters discussed the funding of this project. Mr. Connelly stated that it was his intention to ask the Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan to pick up half the cost as part of the school renovation project. Mr. Connelly stated that the other half would be asked for as part of next years capital requests. The Commission discussed the benefits of this product.

Boys Scout Request

Mr. Connelly reviewed a request from Boy Scout Troop 306 to use Res Beach as a campsite in September. The Commission approved the request 4-0.

Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of May 15, 2001. Mrs. Jones motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. McCabe and approved 4-0.

The Commission adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Joseph J. Connelly, Supt. of Recreation